

**CLAIMS**

1. A method for processing messages incoming on a gatekeeper  
 5 system of an Internet Protocol network, wherein the gatekeeper system  
 includes a plurality of sub-processes each able to process a series of such  
 messages, the method including the step of dispatching the messages  
 incoming on the gatekeeper system onto the different sub-processes, the  
 dispatching step including identifying whether a message belongs to a same  
 10 call as a previous message, and, in that case, sending the message to the  
 same sub-process as that to which the previous message was sent.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of identifying whether a  
 message belongs to a same call as a previous message includes the step of  
 identifying whether the message has the same conference identifier as said  
 15 previous message.

3. The method of claim 1, applied in a H323 network.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the messages to be dispatched  
 are "Registration, Admission and status" (RAS) messages.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising identifying whether the  
 20 message is a registration or an admission message, and, if the message is  
 identified as a registration message, determining the sub-process to which  
 the message is going to be dispatched on the basis of the current load of  
 the different sub-processes in order to balance the load of the different sub-  
 processes.

6. The method according to claim 4, comprising identifying whether  
 the message is a registration or an admission message, and, if the message  
 is an admission message, determining whether the message is the first  
 admission message of a call, and, in that case, determining the sub-process  
 to which the message is going to be dispatched on the basis of the current  
 30 load of the different sub-processes in order to balance the load of the  
 different sub-processes.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the messages to be  
 dispatched enter the gatekeeper system in an encoded form and comprise

several fields, one or several of these fields containing data which identify a call and further wherein the dispatching step includes decoding the message only partially, the decoded part including said one or several fields which contain those data.

5       8. The method according to claim 7, further comprising examining fields of the message in sequence until finding said one or several fields which contain the data which identify the call.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising reading one or several fields of the message which indicate the type of the message and deducing,  
10       on the basis of the type of the message, a sequence of field types concerning the fields which are placed before said one or several fields that contain the call identifying data.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising examining a field which indicates whether some optional fields are present or not before said one or  
15       several fields which contain the call identifying data, in order to determine whether such optional fields should be found or not when examining the fields in sequence.

11. A gatekeeper system of an Internet Protocol network, the gatekeeper system hosting a plurality of sub-processes each able to  
20       process a series of messages, wherein the gatekeeper system is adapted to dispatch the messages onto those different sub-processes, and further wherein the gatekeeper system has means for identifying whether a message belongs to a same call as a previous message, and, in that case, sending this message to the sub-process that processed the previous  
25       message.

12. The gatekeeper system of claim 11, further comprising means to identify whether a message has a same conference identifier as a previous message, and, in that case, sending this message to the sub-process that processed the previous message.

30       13. A component for a gatekeeper system of an Internet Protocol Network, comprising means for dispatching messages incoming on that component onto a plurality of sub-processes, the component being able to identify whether a message belongs to a same call as a previous message,

and, in that case, being able to send this message to the sub-process that processed said previous message.

14. The component of claim 13, including means to identify whether a message has a same conference identifier as a previous message and, in  
5 that case, sending this message to the sub-process that processed said previous message.

15. A method for processing messages incoming on a gatekeeper system of an Internet Protocol network, wherein the gatekeeper system comprises a plurality of sub-processes each able to process a series of  
10 such messages, and further wherein the messages enter the gatekeeper system in an encoded form and comprise a plurality of fields, at least one of which contains data for identifying a call, the method including the step of dispatching the messages incoming on the gatekeeper system onto those different sub-processes, the dispatching step including identifying whether a  
15 message belongs to the same call as a previous message, and, in that case, sending the message to the same sub-process as the previous message, and further wherein the dispatching step includes decoding the message only partially, the decoded part including said one or several fields which contain those data.

20 16. A gatekeeper system operating in accordance with the method of claim 1.

17. A gatekeeper system operating in accordance with the method of claim 15.

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